

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SY-05 MCT-01 IO-13 /071 W
----- 108239 /17

O R 131034Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8289
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BURSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION NATO
USEC BURSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 9364

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: "GRAPO" TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORIAL KIDNAPPING

REF: (A) MADRID 5590, (B) MADRID 9362

1. THE ANTI-FASCIST RESISTANCE GROUP, FIRST OF OCTOBER (GRAPO), A FAR-LEFT TERRORIST GROUP LINKED TO THE "RE-CONSTITUTED" SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE-R--SEE REF A) HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF COUNCIL OF STATE PRESIDENT ORIOL (REF B) IN A LETTER SENT LATE SATURDAY TO MADRID DAILY "EL PAIS). IN THE LETTER, GRAPO TAKES A SWIPE AT WEDNESDAY'S "FARCE OF A REFERENDUM" AND DEMANDS THAT FIFTEEN PRISONERS LINKED TO PCE-R (3), THE BASQUE TERRORIST ETA (6), LEFT TERRORIST FRAP (4), LEFTIST UNION OF THE GALICIAN PEOPLE (UPG-1), AND GRAPO ITSELF (1) BE FREED AND TRANSPORTED TO ALGIERS IN EXHCNAGE FOR THE RELEASE OF ORIOL. THE LETTER WAS FOLLOWED LAST NIGHT BY A SECOND MESSAGE (CONTENTS UNPUBLISHED) IN ORIOL'S OWN HANDWRITTING, AS VERIFIED BY HIS FAMILY, ACCORDING TO PRESS
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REPORTS.

2. THE GOVT HAS NOT RESPONDED PUBLICLY TO THE DEMAND FOR THE RELEASE OF THE FIFTEEN PRISONERS. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE KIDNAPPING, POLICE CHECKPOINTS WERE PLACED ALONG MAJOR ARTERIES LEADING OUT OF MADRID AND SECURITY AT BORDER CROSSINGS ALSO REPORTEDLY WAS BEFFED UP, BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION THUS FAR THAT THE GOVT'S EFFORTS HAVE BORNE FRUIT.

3. ALL SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL GROUPS, FROM THE CIVIL WAR VETERANS ON THE RIGHT TO THE FAR-LEFT SPANISH WORKERS PARTY (PTE) HAVE CONDEMNED THE ACT. THE KIDNAPPING IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT IT IS -- AN ATTEMPT TO WRECK THE REFERENDUM. IT WILL NOT DO SO, HOWEVER, AND COULD EVEN RALLY MORE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A "YES" VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, THOUGH THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

4. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE KIDNAPPING, HOWEVER, IT COULD FUEL YET ANOTHER CYCLE OF EXTREME LEFT-EXTREME RIGHT THREATS AND/OR DEPRADATIONS. LEFT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ REPORTEDLY ALREADY HAS RECEIVED A PHONE THREAT AGAINST HIS LIFE IF ORIOL IS KILLED FROM SOMEONE IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS AMEMBER OF THE EXTREME-RIGHT "WARRIORS OF CHRIST THE KING." IN ORDER TO REMAIN CLOSE TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ORIOL CASE (AND, WE ADD, ANY POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE KIDNAPPERS) PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ HAS POSTPONED HIS IMPORTANT BARCELONA VISIT, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR TODAY.STABLER

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